

parts in dolomitic soil. Such water generally comes from ponds, marshes, fens, and swamps, and should never be taken unless previously filtered or boiled.

The "bouton" of Aleppo, and the "bouton" of Biskra, two endemic diseases of the skin which are still enveloped in much obscurity, are in all probability produced by the use of unwholesome drinking-water. All those who drink of the water of Coïck for a certain time become affected with the "bouton" of Aleppo, while those who do not partake of it are spared. The country people who come to the town of Aleppo and drink of the bad water soon begin to suffer; while those peasants who stop at home remain free. The water of Coïck is slightly alkaline, and contains the salines usually found in drinking-water, as well as organic matter, which latter is no doubt the cause of the evil. The "bouton" of Biskra, which very much resembles that of Aleppo, is to be ascribed to the use of the water of a torrent coming from a plain where the remains of more than a hundred thousand palm-trees are accumulated. It is highly probable that the organic substances coming from the decomposition of these remains, under the influence of salines in solution, impart this remarkable property to the water.

The following are the chief hygienic characters of the different species of drinking-water:—

1. *Spring-water* has the advantage of being generally limpid, so that there is no occasion for filtration, and of being fresh and agreeable to drink; springs come, moreover, frequently from a higher elevation than the towns where they are used, so that we do not want mechanical contrivances for raising the water. Spring-water is mostly richer in salines than river-water. If it is pleasant to drink, and if the fixed constituents consist of bicarbonate of lime without organic matters, and with oxygen, the water is extremely salubrious; but if it contains organic substances, if it comes from marshy soil, and is devoid of oxygen, it must be looked upon with distrust, in spite of the good appearance it may present. Water of this kind should only be used, if the experience of several generations has fully proved its innocuity. This is of much more importance than any chemical analysis, however well made.

2. *Water of rivers and rivulets* is generally wholesome, but its composition may slightly vary according to high or low-water, and this is not the smallest disadvantage it offers. It requires to be filtered, and in summer to be cooled; and the poor man has no filter for purifying, and no cellar for cooling the water.

3. *Water of canals* usually contains more fixed constituents than river-water, and also organic matter.

4. *Water of wells* in old towns is almost always saturated with sulphate of lime; it contains, moreover, the last products of decomposition of organic substances, amongst which we find nitrates and compounds of ammonia, which arise from putrid fermentation of bodies interred in cemeteries, and other impurities.

5. *Water of cisterns*, accumulated by rain, is generally pure, unless collected from roofs soiled by dust or soot. This water is almost too pure, and the absence of lime is prejudicial in certain conditions, as, for instance, for wet-nurses, young children, etc. This want should, therefore, be filled up. Rain-water combines with lead, and we should, on no account, collect it in cisterns of lead, or raise it by pumps in the construction of which lead has been employed.

6. *Water of marshes, ponds, swamps, fens, etc.*, is generally bad, because it contains a considerable proportion of organic substances in suspension and solution. If one is obliged to drink water of this kind, it is preferable to choose such only as has undergone the influence of the sun, and which contains red or green monads. If possible, it should be filtered through carbon, and only be employed after having been boiled. As boiled water, by itself, is unpleasant to drink, tea or coffee should be added, or, if these substances cannot be procured, roots of the strawberry plant, leaves of holly, oak, soap-wort, sage, mint, thyme, etc.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb. 14, 1863.

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17. *Epidemic from Eating the Meat of a Diseased Cow*.—Dr. HUSEMANN, of Detmold, gave an account to the Congress of German Naturalists and Physicians, of a new epidemic disease, which had been observed by him in August,

1862, and was caused by eating the flesh of a diseased cow. About 150 persons were affected. The epidemic was novel in etiology as well as with regard to the symptoms. There were three forms of it: one was very mild, the patients suffering from diarrhœa without fever; another was more severe; there being rigors, febrile symptoms, vomiting, diarrhœa, cerebral symptoms, and violent pains in the abdomen, with great sensitiveness to pressure; the symptoms continued for about a week. The third form was the most severe; there was general collapse, coldness of the extremities, scarcely perceptible pulse, etc. Death ensued in three cases, and convalescence was much protracted in the others. The post-mortem appearances were gastro-enteritis, and hyperæmia and extravasation in the cerebral meninges, the blood being dark and very fluid. There was no retention of urine, and no difficulty of deglutition, whereby the epidemic was distinguished from cholera, and from poisoning with sausages. The cow had had a fracture of the ribs and pleurisy, and it was, therefore, probable that the meat had been poisoned in consequence of pyæmia. The meat was poisonous whether roasted or boiled.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Dec. 13, 1862.

18. *Cerebral Hemorrhage*.—Mr. JONES read (January 16, 1863) before the Western Medical and Surgical Society an account of his researches relative to some points in connection with cerebral hemorrhage. The author's conclusions were based upon 40 fatal cases which had occurred at St. George's Hospital. These were taken indiscriminately; but after a careful scrutiny, selecting only those cases in which a perfect post-mortem examination of all the organs of the body took place, and in which a visible hemorrhage could be demonstrated from the cerebral arteries, 36 cases were found perfectly reliable for his remarks. Of the predisposing causes, the influence of age was first discussed, and, contrary to what had been often advanced, he showed that the greater number of cases occurred between the ages of 40 and 50; for in 38 cases he had found 3 had occurred between 30 and 40 years, 13 between 40 and 50, 10 between 50 and 60, 9 between 60 and 70, and 3 between 70 and 80. But a further examination showed that, by comparing the numbers of cases with the respective numbers of population at similar ages, the period of life at which the disease was most prone to occur relatively was between 60 and 70; for between 30 and 40 years, 3 cases occurred in a population of 2500; between 40 and 50, 13 cases in a population of 1800; between 50 and 60, 10 cases in 1300; between 60 and 70, 9 cases in 1000; and between 70 and 80, 3 cases in a population of 500. With regard to sex, males were shown to be more liable to the disease than females; for of 40 cases 11 only were females. Mr. Jones next described the efficient causes of cerebral hemorrhage, and the intimate connection between the latter and disease of the kidneys, heart, and arteries. This being one of the principal objects of the paper, he entered minutely into details of the 36 fatal cases in which disease of the kidneys, the heart, or arteries was found conjointly or singly with cerebral hemorrhage. The analysis of these 36 cases was then examined, the result being that disease of the cerebral vessels, other vessels, of the heart, of the kidneys, was found in conjunction 10 times; disease of the cerebral vessels, of the heart, of the kidneys, 22 times; disease of the heart and kidneys, 29 times; of the cerebral vessels and kidneys, 22 times; of the cerebral vessels and heart, 24 times; of the cerebral vessels and heart (hypertrophy), 10 times; of vessels not cerebral and kidneys, 13 times; of vessels not cerebral and heart, 13 times. The further result of the analysis showed that in more than one-half the cases the kidneys, heart, and cerebral vessels were simultaneously affected; and in almost all those cases in which there was absence of disease in one or other of these organs there was the history of an accident to which this attack was attributed. The various morbid appearances found in the kidneys, heart, and arteries, under the foregoing circumstances, were fully and minutely explained, the author being strongly of opinion that the diseased condition of the kidneys first led to that of the arteries, and subsequently to the heart. In support of this opinion, Mr. Jones offered an hypothesis to the effect that the kidneys, from their disorganized state, being unable to deplete the blood on the one hand, but allowing the albumen to unduly pass away on the other, this